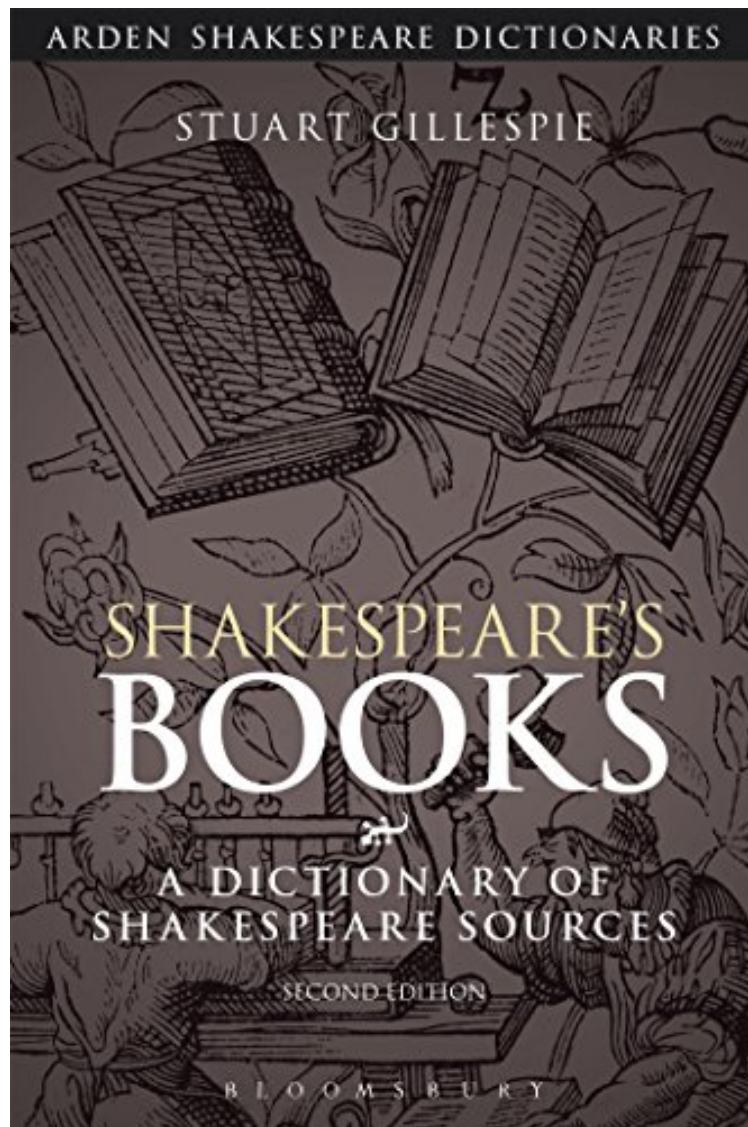


[E-BOOK] Shakespeare's Books: A Dictionary of Shakespeare Sources (Arden Shakespeare Dictionaries)

Shakespeare's Books: A Dictionary of Shakespeare Sources (Arden Shakespeare Dictionaries)

Stuart Gillespie

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Stuart Gillespie : Shakespeare's Books: A Dictionary of Shakespeare Sources (Arden Shakespeare Dictionaries) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shakespeare's Books: A Dictionary of Shakespeare Sources (Arden Shakespeare Dictionaries):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An Unrecognized Classic of Early 21st Century Shakespeare Studies By DSW This is one of the best studies of Shakespeare's sources (up there with Bullough) and one of the best

books on Shakespeare, in general, in the past twenty years. Gillespie succinctly summarizes recent changes in thinking about Shakespeare's sources, describing how what is considered to be a source has expanded to include "creative and imaginative sources" (phrase borrowed from Hal Jensen) as well as "narrative and dramatic ones". He then puts together an incredible compendium of Shakespeare's sources, for the first time presented so that you can evaluate an author's overall impact on Shakespeare, instead of the impact on one particular work. As one example, this shows the significant and under-appreciated impact of one of Shakespeare's contemporaries, Samuel Daniel, upon him. I highly recommend this book to anyone doing research on Shakespeare's sources or Shakespeare in general. It deserves to be regarded as a classic of early 21st Century Shakespeare Studies. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Back to basics. By RS. If you thought for even a minute that Shakespeare's plays were all his original ideas, think again. This book goes into great detail showing precedents for each of his plays and where Shakespeare got his ideas. Shakespeare was the greatest re-teller of stories and here's the inspiration for his greatness.

Shakespeare's Books contains nearly 200 entries covering the full range of literature Shakespeare was acquainted with, including classical, historical, religious and contemporary works. The dictionary covers works whose importance to Shakespeare has emerged more clearly in recent years due to new research, as well as explaining current thinking on long-recognized sources such as Plutarch, Ovid, Holinshed, Ariosto and Montaigne. Entries for all major sources include surveys of the writer's place in Shakespeare's time, detailed discussion of their relation to his work, and full bibliography. These are enhanced by sample passages from early modern England writers, together with reproductions of pages from the original texts. Now available in paperback with a new preface bringing the book up to date, this is an invaluable reference tool.

From Booklist. A specialized Shakespeare title originally published in hardback is now available in more affordable paperback as part of the Student Shakespeare Library series, which also includes Shakespeare's Theatre: A Dictionary of His Stage Context. Shakespeare's Books is an alphabetically arranged dictionary of almost 200 entries on more than 80 major sources that influenced Shakespeare's work. Entries are made up of authors (Virgil, Chaucer); works (the Bible); or genres (Homilies); and entry length varies according to the importance of its influence on Shakespeare's work. The longer entries have four sections: a brief biographical or historical description, an assessment of its reputation in Renaissance England, a discussion of the nature of the influence on Shakespeare, and a bibliography pointing to sources chronicling Shakespeare's use of the author or text. Entries include standard sources of influence on Shakespeare as well as more recent discoveries of texts associated with the Bard. Ten black-and-white figures supplement the text, and there is a general bibliography and index. The index, however, does not include plays, which severely limits the usefulness of this otherwise well-designed book. Recommended for large academic research libraries or specialized literary collections. Susan Gardner. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Shakespeare's Books is a terrific resource not just for source study, but also for the broader study of Shakespeare's intellectual contexts. - Studies in English Literature 1500-1900. About the Author. Stuart Gillespie is Reader in English Literature at the University of Glasgow, UK.